

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 04412 201921Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 MCT-01 DHA-05 (ISO) W
-----050370 210416Z /73

R 201814Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5535
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PINT, PINS, ES
SUBJECT: REACTION TO ASSASSINATION OF UNIVERSITY RECTOR

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR 4357, (B) SAN SALVADOR 4394

1. FACTS CONCERNING ASSASSINATION OF UNIVERISTY RECTOR
MORNING OF SEPT. 16 ARE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE
ORIGINALLY REPORTED REFTEL A. THE RECTOR, CARLOS
ALFARO CASTILLO, WAS IN CAR WITH DRIVER AND ONE BODYGUARD,
RATHER THAN TWO BODYGUARDS AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. ALL
THREE WERE KILLED IN WHAT NOW APPEARS TO BE A CROSSFIRE
OF WEAPONS OF DIFFERENT CALIBERS (AUTOPSY HAS CONFIRMED
SHOTGUN AND NINE MILLIMTER BULLETS). REPORTS NOW
INDICATE THAT ONE AND POSSIBLY TWO CARS IN ADDITION
TO PREVIOUSLY REPORTED PICKUP TRUCK WERE INVOLVED
IN THE SHOOTING. RECTOR REPORTEDLY HAD A FOLLOW-UP
CAR WHICH HAD BEEN DETAINED AT STOPLIGHT AND
NEITHER FOLLOW-UP CAR NOR UNIVERSITY GUARDS WHO
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PAGE 02 SAN SA 04412 201921Z

WERE VERY NEAR ASSASSINATION APPEARS TO HAVE
FIRED ON PERPETRATORS.

2. ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 PRESIDENT ROMERO
ISSUED FORMAL STATEMENT DEPLORING THIS PREMEDITATED
CRIMINAL ACT. HE ADDED THAT IN VIEW OF CURRENT
SITUATION, IT WAS IMPERATIVE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO

TAKE DRASTIC MEASURES TO COMBAT THESE ACTIONS OF EXTREMIST GROUPS BUT WAS CAREFUL TO ADD THEY WOULD DO SO BY LEGAL MEANS (INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF PRESIDENT'S DECLARATION FOLLOWS SEPTTEL). THE UNIVERSITY'S BOARD OF REGENTS ANNOUNCED SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 THAT THE UNIVERSITY WOULD BE CLOSED FOR A THREE DAY PERIOD OF MOURNING, SEPTEMBER 19 THROUGH 21, AND THAT UNIVERSITY EXPECTED TO BE OPENED THURSDAY, SEPT. 22 WITH PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF REGENTS, DR. CARLOS HUMBERTO SIGUENZA, AS ACTING HEAD OF UNIVERSITY. HOWEVER, PRESS ANNOUNCED SEPT. 20 THAT DR. SIGUENZA HAD RESIGNED FROM HIS POSITION AT THE UNIVERSITY ON SEPT. 19 AND IS LEAVING FOR THE UNITED STATES TODAY. UNIVERISTY BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING THIS MORNING PRESUMABLY TO SELECT REPLACEMENT FOR SIGUNEZA. POLICE HAVE LOCATED PICKUP TRUCK BELIEVED USED IN ASSASSINATION AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO TRACE FINGERPRINTS AND OTHER CLUES. POLICE ALSO STATE THEY HAVE SEVERAL SUSPECTS, BUT THUS FAR NO FIRM PROOF. THERE HAS BEEN NO NOTICEABLE OR REPORTED OVER-REACTION ON PART OF GOES ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. REPORTS IN U.S. PRESS OF CITY OF SALVADOR SURROUNDED BY ROAD BLOCKS NOT TRUE.

3. FEELING AMONG SALVADORAN WEALTHY CLASS (ALFARO FAMILY IS AMONG THIS GROUPING) IS RUNNING BITTER AND REVENGEFUL. COMMENTS TO EMBASSY OFFICERS ATTENDING WAKE, IN ADDITION TO SEVERAL REFERENCES TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, WERE TO THE EFFECT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SAN SA 04412 201921Z

THAT WHILE POMA AND BORGONOVO FAMILIES TOOK NO STEPS TO AVENGE THOSE MURDERS, ALFARO AND CASTILLO FAMILIES ARE OF DIFFERENT NATURE AND WILL CERTAINLY SEEK REVENGE (AITAULLY KILLING OF FATHER NAVARRO WAS SAID TO BE UGB REVENGE FOR BORGONOVO KILLING). ALSO FOR FIRST TIME UNDER ROMERO ADMINISTRATION, SEVERAL HIGH-RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS (INCLUDING TWO COLONELS IN ESTADO MAYOR) HAVE COMPLAINED OPENLY BEFORE MILGP COMMANDER OF PRESIDENT ROMERO'S SOFTNESS IN FACE OF CONTINUED TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND HAVE STATED PRIVATELY THAT ROMERO IS NOT FULFILLING CAMPAIGN PROMISE OF BEING TOUGH AND FORCEFUL LEADER WHICH COUNTRY REQUIRES AT THIS TIME.

4. COMMENT. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT SOME FORM OF REPRISAL AGAINST KNOWN OR SUPPOSED LEFTISTS MAY BE TAKEN BY WEALTHY FAMILIES OR DISENCHANTED MILITARY, OR COMBINATION OF BOTH. LUBENSKY

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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ISecure: 1
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